

CITY OF CHEHALIS

AGENDA REPORT

DATE: November 10, 2009

TO: Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority

FROM: Chad Taylor, City of Chehalis Councilmember

SUBJECT: Flood Reduction Project

ISSUE

Flood Reduction in the Chehalis River Basin.

DISCUSSION

On January 14, 2008, the city of Chehalis adopted Resolution No. 1-2008, which described the urgent need for Chehalis and Centralia to support, enhance, and expedite a flood reduction project. The two cities recognize the United States Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) flood plan is limited in scope; however, we believe it needs to include elements that adequately address the following:

- Primary and secondary access to Centralia Providence Hospital;
- China Creek flood control;
- Levy location and maintenance responsibility;
- Flood control/levee protection at Chehalis-Centralia Airport property;
- Dillenbaugh Creek improvements;
- SW 20th Street storm drainage improvements;
- Coal Creek improvements;
- Kresky Avenue improvements; and
- Upstream mitigation of the Chehalis River

Not listed in the resolution is Salzer Creek. Since the adoption of the resolution in 2008, the two cities agree this creek also needs to be considered as part of the Corps plan.

Attached are copies of the adopted resolution and the minutes from January 14, 2008, council meeting that show support for a flood reduction project that includes the above.

The two cities also held a special joint work session on August 18, 2009, (minutes attached) to hear about the current status of flood projects in the Chehalis River Basin. Attendees of the work session included representatives from the Governor's office, the Corps, the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT), and Lewis County. Keith Phillips, from the Governor's executive policy office, reported the Governor was pleased that the basin governments had stepped up and came together in the form of the Flood Authority. He noted the Governor felt the authority was a central forum where they could build agreements and where decision could be made and implemented. WSDOT representative, John Donahue, provided a PowerPoint presentation on some of the background, assumptions, and purpose of the "Twin Cities Project."

It has always been the city's intent to work cooperatively with Lewis County, State and Federal agencies and our legislative representatives on implementation of a broader basin wide approach with the Corps project as one element.

The city of Chehalis is requesting support from the Authority for inclusion of the projects listed above as part of the Twin Cities Project. We continue to believe that development of a flood reduction project must be a high priority.